

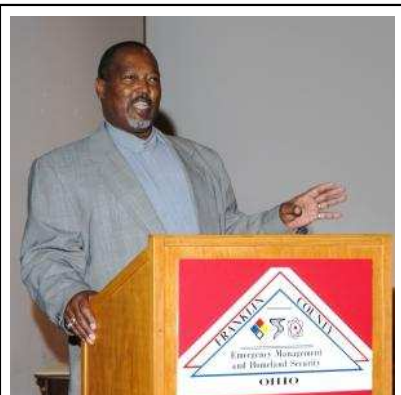
The
December, 2006

EMA Report

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

VOLUME I, NUMBER 2

Ceremony Marks Southside Siren Dedication



Robert Patterson addresses guests at the Marion Franklin Senior Center during a ceremony marking the purchase of a nearby outdoor warning siren.

Key government partners and community residents came together for a ceremony Nov. 17 at the Marion Franklin Senior Center to mark the activation of a much needed \$24,000 outdoor hazardous warning system purchased by four local businesses.

"The key public safety goal," said Gary L. Holland, "was to expedite installation in an area where businesses that use hazardous chemicals co-exist with residential neighborhoods. Holland is the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Director.

"We will continue to work with you to make sure that this is a community you are proud to call home." Councilwoman Patsy Thomas

In attendance were: Columbus Councilwoman Patsy Thomas; County Commissioner Dewey R. Stokes; Moses Hubert, Columbus Deputy Public Safety Director; and Robert Patterson, President Marion Franklin Civic Association.

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Emergency Response Agreements Approved

Two agencies, six counties join Franklin in coordinated response to operations

The Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan, which is a compilation of coordinated responses for multiple agencies and jurisdictions, just got a major boost.

To ensure the resources of the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) and the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (ARCGC) are better coordinated and used to the fullest advantage in rendering disaster relief, both organizations have bolstered their existing agreement to work together more closely in a crisis.

"We've also learned that it's much harder to build partnerships when the levees have burst, and this is why this SOU is so important." ARCG CEO Michael Carroll

Goodwill Columbus has also joined in the spirit of cooperation with FCEM&HS by detailing its assistance to receive, sort, distribute or store donated clothing and household goods.

Director Gary L. Holland presented the revised Statement of Understanding (SOU) with ARGC to the Executive Committee on November 15.

The committee of 41 surrounding villages, townships, and municipal jurisdictions, led by Dublin City Manager Jane Brautigam, reviewed and approved the seven-page document.

"Over the last several years our nation has realized the importance of planning ahead," Chairwoman Brautigam said.

"By joining forces with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and enlisting their expertise, we will be better prepared in times of crisis."



This Northwest Area Strike Team training simulation tests multiple jurisdiction and agency coordinated responses.

FCEM&HS coordinates its activities and resources during disaster preparedness and catastrophic situations with local, state, and federal governments, outlying localities, ARCGC, and various private not-for-profit agencies such as Goodwill Columbus.

To reflect Director Holland's concern for responsive management and prudent use of existing capabilities, the pre-existing agreement supports 18 areas of

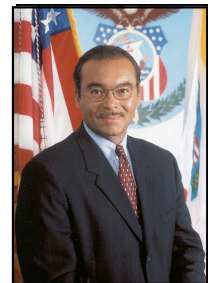
emphasis from the original 8 elements.

The ARCGC ensures the mass care needs of the impacted population are met including operating shelters, arranging mass feeding, providing mental health services and family assistance during disasters.

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As Mayor of the City of Columbus, Michael B. Coleman oversees the operations of 13 departments, with more than 8,000 full-time employees and an annual budget of more than \$1.16 billion, including the Department of Public Safety which manages the Divisions of Police and Fire. Mayor Coleman was first elected in 1999, after serving for seven years on Columbus City Council.

The Mayor's top priorities in office have included: building stronger, safer neighborhoods; bringing new investment and energy to downtown; aggressive economic development to attract and retain jobs; starting the Capital Kids after-school program; leveraging the construction of more than 13,000 new housing units; driving new economic investment into long-neglected urban neighborhoods; and making City government more efficient and accountable.



Mayor Michael Coleman

Mayor Coleman has fought to bring millions in Federal Homeland Security funding to the region, and invested City funds to purchase vehicles, radios, communications networks, training and other tools to improve the security and connectivity of Central Ohio's safety forces.

Editor's Note: Each edition we will feature an Executive Board committee member and profile their duties and vision for FCEM&HS. Dave Borden, Department of Public Safety Communications Division, is the Mayor's alternate representative.



The National Weather Service uses specific winter weather terms to ensure that people know what to expect in the coming days and hours. A **Winter Storm Watch** means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area, but its occurrence, location and timing are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued to provide 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather. A winter storm watch is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set plans in motion can do so. A watch is upgraded to a **Winter Storm Warning** when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet is expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or 1/4 inch or more of ice accretion is expected. **Winter Weather Advisories** inform you that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant

inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening. A **Blizzard Warning** means that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Be sure to listen carefully to the radio, television, and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest winter storm watches, warnings, and advisories. For additional information, visit the Winter Weather Awareness web page at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om>

FCEM&HS Office closed December 25 in observance of Christmas Day.

Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, December 26, 2006.

FCEM&HS Office closed January 1 in observance of New Years Day.

Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

Upcoming Meetings

December 11	9am/1pm	MARCS Radio Training	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
December 12	9am	Fire Chiefs Association	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
December 13	1pm	PIO Network Messaging	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
December 13	2pm	PIO Network	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
December 14	10am	Homeland Security Advisory Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Upcoming Class

For information on CERT programs, please log on to www.fccert.org.

Upcoming Exercise

December 8	9-12	Radiological Tabletop Exercise (EOC)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
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Gary L. Holland, Director

Jim Leonard, EM-Recovery/Communications

Art Baker, EM Warning/EOC

Robert Crockett, PIO/Community Education Outreach

Donna Monell, Deputy Director

Jan Bartel, Finance

Pam Tickle, Administrative Assistant

www.emafc.com





Dave Mason, Moses Hubert, Milton Steinberg, Councilwoman Patsy Thomas, Scott Case, Commissioner Dewey R. Stokes, Robert Patterson. (Left to Right)

Siren Ceremony

Continued from Page 1

Representatives from Georgia-Pacific Resins, Sherwin-Williams, Norfolk & Southern, and ODW Logistics were recognized for their contributions.

The agency hosted the dedication ceremony to publicly acknowledge the emergency warning system purchased last year.

With the help of the City of Columbus Department of Public Safety, the Marion Franklin Civic Association, the local emergency planning agency (LEPC), and Columbus Public Health, Director Holland rallied local industry to launch the initiative.

Response Agreements

Continued from Page 1

The new SOU strengthens crisis operations between the two organizations through information sharing and joint training.

For example, both agencies agree to make training, educational or developmental opportunities available to the other. This includes using the other's facilities for meetings and response and recovery activities.

Both agencies will include a representative in its committees and task forces. In an actual crisis, FCEM&HS provides workspace and other support to the ARCGC liaison personnel assigned to the Emergency Operations Center.

ARCGC CEO, Michael Carroll, sees the importance of working closely with other agencies.

"Every time the Red Cross responds to a disaster," Carroll said, "we are reminded that productive relationships with governmental organizations, and especially Emergency Management and Homeland Security agencies, are critical for the success of the response."

"At the ARC of Greater Columbus, we are committed to working with Director Holland and his team to make the agreement the cornerstone of community preparedness."

When a crisis occurs, Goodwill Columbus is also an important resource agency ready to help distribute donated clothing items.

Through the newly formed alliance, both agencies will strengthen their information sharing and relief efforts. The public will be better informed of donation sites and of items that may or may not be accepted.

"We are proud to work with the Franklin County Emergency Team and other key agencies

whenever disaster strikes in our community," said Margie Pizzuti, President & CEO of Goodwill Columbus. "Goodwill has a long and rich history of gathering and distributing goods through our retail stores and we are glad to bring our expertise to this effort by providing clothing and household goods that individuals may need during these challenging times."

On Nov. 29th, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, , approved these agreements and three others: Madison, Pickaway and Union Counties. Fairfield, Licking and Delaware Memoranda of Understanding had been previously approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of County Commissioners.

"Central Ohio is well served by the high level of collaboration among its key emergency agencies," Holland stated.



**American
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus



American
Red Cross
Disaster

